

Notes

Open files are the ones with no pawns of either color on them. An open file is considered to be an advantage since it can allow our pieces (in most cases our rooks) to penetrate the opponent's territory and create threats. In most cases we would like to occupy the 7th rank but that, of course, has to be determined based on the exact position we have on the board.

Half-open files only have one opponent's pawn on them. They can be quite useful if we want to put pressure on that pawn. For example, if our opponent has a weak pawn on one of the half-open files, we can consider using that file to attack his weakness.